

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claim 1 (Canceled)  
Claim 2 (Canceled)  
Claim 3 (Canceled)  
Claim 4 (Canceled)  
Claim 5 (Canceled)  
Claim 6 (Canceled)  
Claim 7 (Canceled)  
Claim 8 (Canceled)  
Claim 9 (Canceled)  
Claim 10 (Canceled)  
Claim 11 (Canceled)  
Claim 12 (Canceled)  
Claim 13 (Canceled)  
Claim 14 (Canceled)  
Claim 15 (Canceled)  
Claim 16 (Canceled)  
Claim 17 (Canceled)  
Claim 18 (Canceled)  
Claim 19 (Canceled)  
Claim 20 (Canceled)  
Claim 21 (Canceled)

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Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Canceled)

Claim 27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Canceled)

Claim 32 (Canceled)

Claim 33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Canceled)

Claim 36 (Canceled)

Claim 37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Canceled)

Claim 39 (Canceled)

Claim 40 (Canceled)

Claim 41 (Currently Amended) A pre-deployment configuration for a primary stenting system for placing a stent within a stenosis of a vessel in a human body, the system comprising:

a flexible guide wire;

a balloon angioplasty catheter having a distal portion, the balloon angioplasty catheter having an inflatable balloon located at its distal portion, the inflatable balloon having a proximal end and a distal end, the balloon angioplasty catheter also having a flexible, distal tip having a distal end and a proximal end and also having a lumen through which the guide wire can be slideably moved,

a stent coaxially mounted around the inflatable balloon of the balloon angioplasty catheter;

a pair of coaxially mounted ~~distal~~ elastomer bands, one said band situated over the portion of the balloon angioplasty catheter that lies just distal to the stent and the other said band situated over the portion of the balloon angioplasty catheter that lies just proximal to said stent, the proximal and distal elastomer bands being adapted to prevent the coaxially mounted stent from sliding off of the inflatable balloon in either a proximal ~~direction~~ or a distal direction, said bands not covering the stent along any of the stent's longitudinal length; and

wherein the distal tip has a gentle taper from a larger diameter at the proximal end of the distal tip to a smaller diameter at the distal end of the distal tip, the gently tapered distal tip and distal elastomer band together forming a smooth outer surface to facilitate penetration of a tight stenosis.

Claim 42 (Original) The system of claim 41 wherein the distal tip is more than 10 mm long.

Claim 43 (Original) The system of claim 41 wherein the distal tip is more than 20 mm long.

Claim 44 (Canceled)

Claim 45 (Original) The system of claim 44 wherein the gradually tapered distal tip has an average taper of less than 4 degrees from its distal end to its proximal end.

Claim 46 (Original) The system of claim 44 wherein the gently tapered distal tip, distal elastomer band and proximal elastomer band are each lubricity coated.

Claim 47 (Original) The system of claim 41 wherein the proximal and distal elastomer bands each include a high density material for increased radiopacity.

Claim 48 (Canceled)

Claim 49 (Canceled)

Claim 50 (Canceled)

Claim 51 (Canceled)

Claim 52 (Canceled)

Claim 53 (Canceled)

Claim 54 (Canceled)

Claim 55 (Canceled)

Claim 56 (Canceled)

Claim 57 (Canceled)

Claim 58 (Canceled)

Claim 59 (Canceled)

Claim 60 (Canceled)

Claim 61 (Canceled)

Claim 62 (Canceled)

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Claim 63 (Canceled)

Claim 64 (Canceled)

Claim 65 (Canceled)

Claim 66 (Canceled)

Claim 67 (Canceled)

Claim 68 (Canceled)

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